Extension of Calcutta Metro System

392. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received to extend the Calcutta Metro System up to Barrackpore in the north and Garia in the south;

(b) the estimated total capital cost for completing the expansion programme; and

(c) whether necessary allocations are proposed under the Ninth Five Year Plan for completion of the expansion work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per survey report, the estimated cost for Tollygunge-New Garia extension is Rs. 656.48 crore. No survey for Dum Dum-Barrackpore extension has so far been carried out.

(c) Under the revised Allocation of Business Rules, it is now for the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment to initiate action on such proposals.

Compartments in Kanyakumari-Gurwayour Express

393. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kanyakumari-Gurwayour Express in Kerala is over-crowded; and

(b) considering the fact of overcrowding, whether Government will increase the number of compartments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The train is well patronised but not fully occupied during the last year.

(b) The load of the train has been augmented by two coaches.

Installation of new signalling system at Secunderabad

394. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new signalling system, the Route Relay Interlocking system, has been installed at the Secunderabad Railway Station;

(b) if so, the main features of the system, the costs involved and the improvements expected in the safety of train operations; and

(c) the schedule drawn up, if any, for providing similar systems in other stations in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir, Route Relay Interlocking has been commissioned at Secunderabad Station on 3.1.98.

(b) (i) Cost involved is Rs. 548 lakhs.

(ii) *Improvements:*

— Main feature of the system is that just by pressing two buttons on the Central Panel, it is possible to set the entire route, check and clear a signal only in 10 seconds for reception and despatch of a train. Prior to commissioning of the Route Relay Interlocking system, the traffic was handled by 3 Independent Cabins involving operation of a large number of mechanical levers. It used to take 3 to 4 minutes to clear a signal, as it necessitated coordination amongst the various cabins. With the elimination of coordination amongst multiple cabin staff, the safety level of train operation is improved. Train movements at the entire station can be controlled and monitored from the single control cabin.

(c) The system is provided at major junction stations depending on traffic requirements. Similar work is sanctioned at Dornakal Jn. station in Andhra Pradesh.

Rail Accidents due to Derailment

395. DR. B.B. DUTTA:
SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of railway accidents, zone-wise during last six months;